

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE PRIORITY

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FOR USDEL CSCE

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TAGS: PORG CSCE

SUBJECT: PRFSS SUMMARY, WEDNESDAY JUNE 15

1. NYT, PAGE 1 (AND ALL OTHER PAPERS),CHRISTOPHER WREN,
FROM MOSCOW, INTERPRETS THE SOVIET ACCUSATIONS TOWARD TOTH
AND HIS SUBSEQUENT INTERROGATION BY THE KGB AS A KREMLIN
DRIVE TO PORTRAY WESTERN JOURNALISTS AS SUBVERSIVE.
REFERRING TO THE SOVIET ACTION AS "UNPRECEDENTLY OMINOUS,"
THE INTENT IS SEEN AS DISCOURAGEMENT OF PRESS CONTACTS IN
USSR. SEPARATE ARTICLES NOTE WHITE HOUSE SPOKESMAN SAID
PRESIDENT CARTER IS "QUITE CONCERNED" ABOUT SOVIET ACTIONS
AGAINST TOTH.

2. WP, PAGE 20, MICHAEL GETLER, REPORTING FROM BELGRADE,
CALLS THE PROCEEDINGS "EXPLOSIVE EAST-WEST TALKS" THAT MAY
SEVERELY TEST EAST-WEST RELATIONS. SEEING HUMAN RIGHTS AS
THE FOCUS OF THE CONFERENCE, THE EASTERN EUROPEAN POLITICAL
CLIMATE IS TENSE. THE PROBLEM FOR US OFFICIALS IS
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DECIDING BETWEEN MODERATION OR SEVERE PRESSURE IN DEALING
WITH THE SOVIETS ON THIS ISSUE. INDICATION THAT CURRENT
BELGRADE MEETING IS TECHNICAL IN NATURE APPEARS HALF-WAY
THROUGH ARTICLE.

3. WP EDITORIAL DEFINES THE HELSINKI ACCORDS AS FRESH AND
FORMAL ACCEPTANCE BY EACH SIGNATORY THAT ITS INTERNAL

PRACTICES ARE A MATTER FOR INTERNATIONAL CONCERN AND PRESENTS BELGRADE MEETING AS A USEFUL FORUM WHERE COLLECTIVE PRESSURE MAY SOFTEN KREMLIN PRACTICES. RELATED EDITORIAL ATTACKS SOVIET DETENTION OF TOTH AND NOTES RESPONSIBILITY RESTS ON THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES FOR THEIR ACCUSATIONS. EDITORIAL SUGGESTS SOVIETS ARE EVIDENTLY BUILDING CASE THAT WESTERN INTEREST IN WORKING CONDITIONS FOR JOURNALISTS AND HUMAN RIGHTS IS COVER FOR SUBVERSION.

4. JUNE 20 ISSUE OF NEWSWEEK CONTAINS 15 PAGE SPECIAL ON HUMAN RIGHTS WHICH REPORTS PRIMARILY ON SUPPRESSION IN EASTERN EUROPE. SPECIAL REFERS TO THE SENSITIVITY OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE AT BELGRADE.

5. WALL STREET JOURNAL, PAGE 24, ARTICLE ACKNOWLEDGES THE VALUE OF HELSINKI ACCORDS BY HIGHLIGHTING CHANGES IN EASTERN EUROPE IN THE LAST TWO YEARS, SUCH AS EMIGRATION TO THE FRG. AS THE VITALITY OF THE HELSINKI AGREEMENT ORIGINATES IN PUBLIC HOPES FOR PROGRESS, THE TASK FOR POLICY MAKERS IS KEEPING THESE HOPES ALIVE.

6. BALTIMORE SUN, PAGE 4, IN A GENERAL ARTICLE ON THE HISTORY AND SCOPE OF THE BELGRADE MEETING, THE SUN PLAYS DOWN THE IMPORTANCE OF HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE AT CURRENT PREPARATORY MEETING ON PROCEDURES. SOVIETS ARE PORTRAYED AS PREPARED AND CONFIDENT FOR BELGRADE, WITH INTENTION OF LIMITING THE DISCUSSION TO GENERALITIES WITH AN ORIENTATION TO THE FUTURE RATHER THAN DISCUSSING PAST DEFICIENCIES.

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7. WASHINGTON STAR, PAGE 3, HENRY S. BRADSHAW, BELGRADE, QUOTES AMBASSADOR SHERER AS POINTING TO THE ROLE OF THE CURRENT MEETING AS PRIMARILY PROCEDURAL AND NOTING TWO POINTS OF POSSIBLE CONFLICT: ESTABLISHMENT OF A FIXED CLOSING DATE AND AGREEMENT ON THE AGENDA FOR THE MAIN MEETING.

8. NBC SPECIAL EVENING OF JUNE 14 FOCUSED ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN SOVIET UNION AND EASTERN EUROPE. IT INCLUDED FILM CLIPS OF AND COMMENTS FROM GARRICK UTLEY IN BELGRADE.

CHRISTOPHER

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